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iSusLab

A Sakai-based Virtual Research Environment for scientists

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Centre for
Sustainable
Chemical Technologies



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - Who am I?
 - Aside: academic workload
 - Why a VRE?
- 2 What have we done?
 - Why Sakai?
 - Our setup
 - Examples of use
- 3 The future
 - What's next?

Outline

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- Who am I?
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What have we done?

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- Our setup
- Examples of use

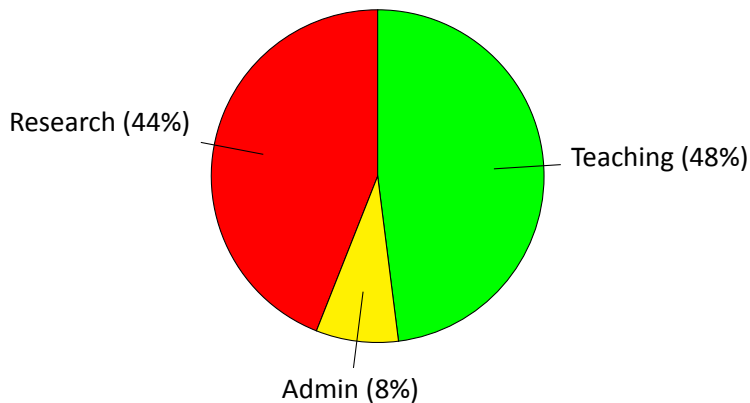
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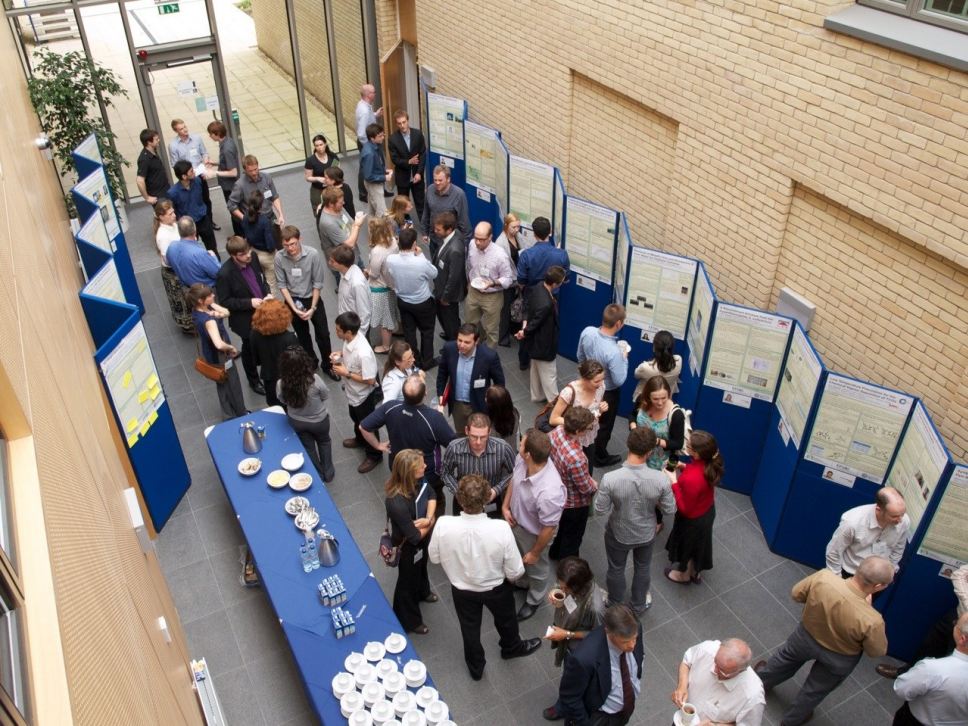
The future

- What's next?

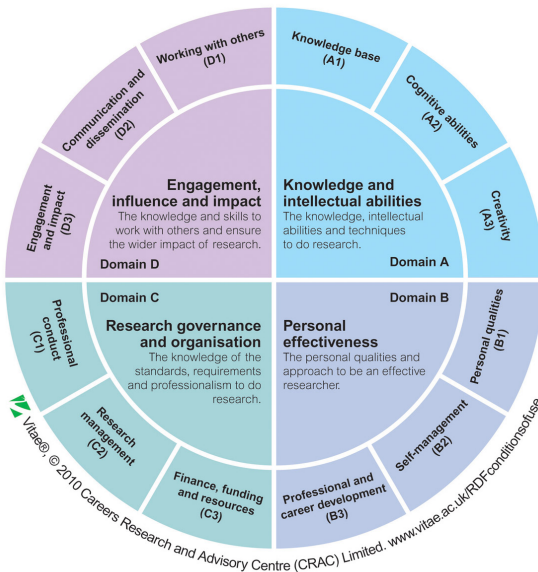


Aside: Academic workload





Researcher Development Framework



Researcher Development Framework

D2.2 Communication media

Phase 1 “Develops skills in a range of communication means...”

Phase 2 “Uses interactive communication technologies for networking, information/data sharing and promoting research presence.”

Phase 3 “Confidently uses e-resources. Establishes and leads virtual research environments. Collaborates and communicates research ‘virtually’.”

What is a VRE?

VRE = Virtual Research Environment

- An online toolbox to support research;
- Researchers vary widely — so do VREs;
- A few examples:
 - Data storage and sharing;
 - Analysis tools;
 - Access to computational resources;
 - Communication & collaboration tools;

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Reasons for researchers

- Flexible tools:
 - Many to choose from;
 - Choose as few as you need;
 - “Shrink-wrap” the problem;
- Flexible permissions:
 - Control access to protect intellectual property;
 - Customise roles & permissions site-by-site if needed.

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Reasons for the institution

- Open source:
 - Low cost to implement;
 - Very customisable;
 - Well maintained by the community;
- Web-based:
 - Available from anywhere;
 - No software installation;
- Built by HE for HE:
 - Designed with research and teaching in mind;
 - Excellent integration with institutional systems.

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Site Information Display

[Options](#)

Air- and water-free chemistry on the moon

This project seeks to explore air- and water-free chemistry and chemical engineering by establishing a research laboratory on the moon.



Recent Announcements

[Options](#)

Announcements (viewing announcements from the last 10 days)

There are currently no announcements at this location.

Calendar

[Options](#)

July, 2011

< Today >

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Message Center Notifications

[New Messages](#)

none

[New in Forums](#)

none

User roles and permissions

- Owner** Full administrative access & can delete the site;
- Organizer** Full administrative access;
- Member** Can view most things and add/edit their own content in most tools;
- Observer** Can view most things but cannot make changes.

Hat-tip to University of Michigan

Student projects

- Each MRes and PhD project gets a worksite;
- Some well used, some less so;
- Some students, some supervisors taking the lead;
- Some interesting innovations:
 - e.g. Microsoft OneNote as Electronic Lab Notebook, syncing to Sakai via WebDAV.

MRes project proposals

- **Before:** Word documents submitted by email and collated manually;
- **Now:** Simple form filled in and deposited using Resource tool;
- Pros:
 - Viewable in the browser (no Word documents);
 - Can enforce character limits;
 - All proposals archived on iSuslab without additional effort;
- Cons:
 - Copy-and-paste from Word causes problems.

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Goldsmiths course

- Course for school science teachers in sustainable chemistry;
- Participants developed their own resources during the week;
- Resources shared and archived on iSusLab.

What else?

- Project report repository;
- Student seminar series coordination;
- Sustainable Water research sandpit;
- Public Engagement course resources.

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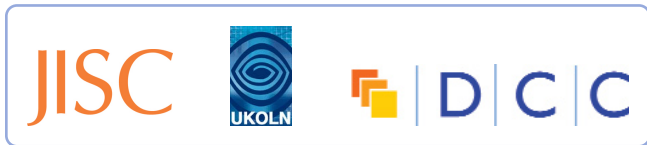
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Research360

- Integrate research data management into research workflow;
- 18 month funded project;
- Integrate Sakai with digital repositories using SWORD2.



Electronic Lab Notebook

- **Idea:** Sakai provides some basic components of an ELN:
 - Data storage & sharing (Resources);
 - Standardised data entry (OSP Forms);
 - Access control.
- Fairly easy to bring these together?
- Not sure yet...

What else?

- New tools:
 - Video conferencing;
 - Google Documents;
- Share good practice amongst users:
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 - Ideas, anyone?

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Summary

- Sakai works for research too!
- Contact me:
 - Web <http://go.bath.ac.uk/jez>
 - Blog <http://erambler.co.uk/>
 - Email J.Cope@bath.ac.uk
 - Twitter [@jezcope](#)



Thanks for your time

Any questions?